

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04647 150931Z

15

ACTION INR-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 SAB-01 SAM-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 IO-14

ACDA-19 ISO-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /129 W

----- 077306

R 150904Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3540

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 4647

NOFORN DISSEM

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MAPR, EG, IS, SY

SUBJECT: MID EAST MILITARY POSTURES

REF: STATE 177005

1. TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT COVERS GROUND PRETTY WELL. WE ARE

UNABLE TO COMMENT FROM HERE AS TO LIKELIHOOD THAT ISRAELI
JORDANIAN DEAL OF SOME SORT MIGHT SATISFY SYRIA OR IF SO FOR
HOW LONG. ISRAELIS WILL NOT BE WILLING IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE

TO GIVE BACK MORE LAND ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. VIEWED FROM THIS
PERSPECTIVE, JORDANIAN-ISRAELI DEAL MIGHT ONLY BE POSTPONING

SECRET

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 04647 150931Z

INEVITABLE, I.E., ATTACK INITIATED BY SYRIA.

2. WE USED TO THINK IN TERMS OF POSSIBLY "ISOLATING SYRIA" THROUGH GOI MOVEMENT TOWARDS SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT AND JORDAN, THUS INHIBITING SYRIAN RESORT TO WAR. IT ALSO BE USEFUL TO KNOW IF THIS IS STILL CONSIDERED A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY.

3. WHAT IS MISSING IN ASSESSMENT IS ANY COMMENT RE SOVIET ROLE OR MOTIVES. FOR EXAMPLE, DO WE THINK SOVIET "COLD WAR" WITH EGYPT AND APPARENT FRUSTRATION WITH DELAY IN RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD LEAD SOVIETS TO ENCOURAGE RENEWED HOSTILITIES BY SYRIA? IF SO, SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS HAS SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR US-USSR RELATIONS.

4. FINALLY, THERE HAS BEEN A TENDENCY IN RECENT OFFICIAL LITERATURE RE POSSIBILITIES OF RENEWED SYRIAN-ISRAELI HOSTILITIES TO THINK IN TERMS OF TWO POSSIBILITIES: WAR OF "ATTRITION" OR FULL HOSTILITIES. THERE IS NO "SALIENT" IN SYRIA; A WAR OF "ATTRITION" WOULD INEVITABLY MEAN SYRIAN BOMBARDMENT OF

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON GOLAN IF NOT IN ISRAEL PROPER. GOI WOULD NOT TOLERATE THIS. ISRAELI REACTION WOULD PROBABLY BE ON SUCH A SCALE SO AS TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH IT FROM "PREEMPTION."
KEATING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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